



DINNER FOR NEWSBOYS. It Was Given Yesterday by J. L. Connell.

On the fourth floor of the Connell building yesterday afternoon J. L. Connell entertained 140 newsboys at a dinner. It was an inspiring sight as the youngsters gathered around the well-laden tables and attacked the good things prepared for them with a zeal which would have been agony for a dyspeptic to see.

The dinner was served by Caterer Hanley, and consisted of turkey, cranberry sauce, celery, mashed potatoes, corn pudding, pickles, ice cream, candy and oranges.

Before the feast a blessing was invoked by Rev. James McLeod, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian church. Several of Mr. Connell's friends assisted him in caring for the little fellows and seeing they were properly bestowed about the tables. Many of the boys were so small that large books and cushions had to be put under them to raise them to the level of the tables.

Mr. Connell gave a similar dinner to newsboys a year ago. That it is a popular event with the boys was demonstrated by their manifestations of pleasure yesterday, and their assurance to Mr. Connell that they anticipated with joy the prospect that led him to arrange the feast for them.

AT THE ORAL SCHOOL. Children Presented with Christmas Gifts Last Night.

The seventy-five pupils of the Pennsylvania Oral School for the Deaf were given a Christmas festival at the institution last night, thanks to the generosity of the board of directors.

An enormous Christmas tree was arranged in one of the large study rooms in the principal's department and on this were hung a myriad of gifts for the happy youngsters who gathered around. Each little girl received a pretty dressed doll and altogether each child received four presents. In addition to a surplus of candy, fruit and nuts.

The distribution was under the direction of Miss Mary B. C. Brown, the principal, and was witnessed by J. Benjamin Dimmick and Henry Bell, of the board of directors, and a number of the friends of the school. After the presents had been distributed the children united in wishing the board of directors a merry Christmas, pronouncing the words with wonderfully perfect articulation.

The affair was essentially a private one, and no programme of any kind was given.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE. [Under this heading about letters of interest published with accompanying illustrations by the writer. The Tribune does not assume responsibility for opinions here expressed.]

Mr. Silliman's Statement Reviewed. Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The average wages asked for by the men employed by the Scranton Railway Company is less than 10c per hour. This management claims is 25-30 per cent in advance of present average, which accordingly is 14c cents per hour. Forty per cent of the men according to the company's statement are receiving the highest rate of wages, being four-year men, which is 16-25 cents plus 5-25-100 per cent, equals approximately 17.5-100 cents per hour, including premium. Striking this rate from the average leaves 60 per cent of the men receiving inclusive of premium, an average of 12-9-10 cents per hour. The highest rate asked for is 20 cents per hour, which is an increase above the present highest rate, including premium, of 11 per cent, while the seemingly excessive increase asked is on part of the men, who are working for the average of less than 10 cents per hour.

Reference is made to the willingness of the company to reduce the number of hours for a day's work and significant suggestion is made relative to the present moderate of hours as compared with the number of hours exacted by other companies for a day's work. However, that may be, it will be hard for the company to reduce the hours of the men, who have twelve hours and more is a moderate number of hours to exact for a day's work, and it is quite unlikely when 60 per cent of the men are getting an average of less than 10 cents per hour that a majority of them would ask for a reduction of hours without some prospect of an increase in pay per hour.

Also the other men are being underpaid. Great injustice is given the statement that the men are paid for more time than actually worked. While a few minutes are given the men in which to eat, yet they are on duty much more time than they are paid for.

AFTER ALL WE CAN BE MERRY

ILL FOREBODINGS HAPPILY NOT REALIZED.

Fears That the Last Christmas of the Nineteenth Century Would Be Marked by Disorder and Serious Injury to the Business of the Community Were Fortunately Not Well Grounded—Day Had an Unusual Aspect on Account of the Strike and the Mild Weather.

No one wants to engender an acrimonious discussion on this day above all days, so when it is referred to here as the last Christmas of the nineteenth century any one who doubts it can substitute twentieth and amendment will be accepted.

But, be that as it may, Scranton approached this last Christmas of the nineteenth century with ill forebodings. "Peace on earth" was already in the air when there was precipitated a conflict which in other cities, only recently, had been attended with the wildest tumult. Then, in an industrial way, the business men had stocked their stores heavily in anticipation of an unusually large holiday trade, expected as a natural result of the good times following the strike.

Fortunately, however, these fears were not realized this far and promise not to be realized. The strike is on and has been on for two days and two nights and the first instance of violence or anything approaching it is yet to be recorded, and what is extremely cheering, the prospects are that there will be no such regrettable occurrence to record. There are some ill effects on trade, but so much less was it than was expected the business men are scarcely heard to complain.

It was an unusual day-before-Christmas in several respects, but in one it was peculiar. Never before in the history of the city were there seen so many and such a variety of vehicles on the business streets, on the consequences of the strike. Everything in the way of a hand wagon, bus or wagon that could be pressed into public service was substituting for the trolley cars in caring for the suburbanites who "came to town," while every sort of private conveyance, from the hay-rigging on which the country folk and the family of the farmer, to the automobile, in which the weather Scrantonian is now quite numerous, were on the streets, on the avenues and streets in central city and kept pedestrians on the jump when crossing from one side of the street to the other.

WEATHER DELIGHTFUL. In the matter of weather it was also a remarkable day-before-Christmas, for the temperature was more like that of a spring day than the third day after the shortest day in the year. Overcoats were more of a luxury than a necessity.

The absence of cold weather and the general prosperity with which the community is blessed made the annual work of the organized charities in taking care of the poor extremely light. As has been the custom for years, these charitable societies say to it, as far as they were able, that no poor family lacked the wherewithal of a merry Christmas. Even toys for the children were not wanting.

All in all, Scrantonians can be more than proud of the way they were pleasantly disappointed in their ill forebodings.

PONTIFFICAL HIGH MASS. It Will Be Sung by Bishop Hoban This Morning at 10.30. At 10.30 this morning in St. Peter's cathedral Rt. Rev. Bishop Hoban will sing pontifical high mass. The following is the musical programme that will be rendered by the choir under the direction of Prof. W. P. Schilling: Kyrie—Soprano and Chorus. Lambillotte Mrs. Leonard, W. R. Bradley and Choir. Gloria Mrs. Josephine C. Walsh, Miss Laura Rafter, W. R. Bradley and Choir. Offertory—Adele Fideles. Mrs. Gustav Reppert and Male Chorus. Sanctus (Chorus) Lambillotte Benedictus (Chorus) Lambillotte Agnes Del. Lambillotte Miss Lizzie Snow, Mr. Reppert and Choir. Te Deum—Chorus with organ accompaniment. W. R. Bradley, organist. Bauer's full orchestra will play the accompaniments.

THREE CHRISTMAS WEDDINGS. A Trio of Brides Made Happy by Aldermen Millar and Kasson. There were no less than three Christmas brides made happy yesterday by Aldermen Kasson and Millar, and the last named official has arranged for a wedding in his office tonight at 8 o'clock, though he won't divulge the names of the contracting parties.

The two couples united by Alderman Kasson were both from Scranton. Thomas Burgess was married to Miss Clara Graham, while Richard T. Hurvay took Mrs. Maggie Burnett as his wife. The couple united in marriage by Alderman Millar was William Griffith and Anna Jones, both of Forest.

POSTOFFICE RUSH. Largest Christmas Business in History of the Local Office. The Christmas rush at the local postoffice is pronounced by Superintendent of Mails Schautz to be the largest in the history of the institution. It has differed from the rush in years past in that it has extended over several days, beginning last Friday instead of being confined to practically the day before Christmas.

has had all of his eight substitutes working in addition to his regular force since last Friday and by expeditious management succeeded in clearing up every bit of distributed mail ready up to 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. There will be one regular delivery today in the morning.

HIS STEREOPTICON MISSING.

D. P. Murray Meets with a Very Serious Loss. D. P. Murray had P. F. Turner, a reading lamp, a grip containing tools and other features pertaining to a stereo-opticon, out from his home at 1028 South Wyoming avenue to the Elm Park church.

When the drayman arrived at the church he found that the stereo-opticon, reading lamp and grip were missing. Whether they fell from the dray or were stolen is not known. The loss is a very serious one for Mr. Murray.

COLD STEEL TOOK FIGHT OUT OF THEM

Special Officer Huffing Had Trouble with Four Men, Who Wanted to Take His Prisoner Away.

Special Agent T. S. Huffing, of the Municipal league, had a rather exciting time on Monday night with Thomas F. Gilboy, whom he had arrested, and four of his friends, who attempted to take the prisoner from him.

A warrant was issued by Alderman Murphy on Monday for the arrest of Gilboy, who lives at 523 Beech street. The warrant was issued at the instance of Special Agent Wilson, of the Municipal league, who charged Gilboy with selling liquor without a license. Since that time up to yesterday he had successfully evaded arrest, and the many attempts made to locate him had proved unsuccessful.

Huffing was walking along Lackawanna avenue yesterday afternoon, when he saw Gilboy with four companions enter one of the crowded stores. He had the warrant in his pocket, and when his man came out again he placed him under arrest. Gilboy protested and contended that he was not the man Huffing wanted at all.

The latter said he was, and that he'd have to come along. Gilboy's four companions protested then, and each and every one of them threatened to do dire things to the Municipal league man if he dared to take their friend before the alderman. Huffing realized that he was in for trouble, and called a policeman to his assistance.

That official grabbed Gilboy and marched him to the foot of the stairs leading up to Alderman Millar's office on Wyoming avenue, and then, thinking there would be no more trouble, turned him over to Huffing, and walked away. He made a mistake, however, in thinking there would be no more trouble for the moment the bluecoat's back was turned the four aforementioned friends of Gilboy, who had followed him, ran up the outside stairs and ranged themselves at the foot of the stairs inside the hall.

They dared Huffing to come on, and said that they'd never let him get up stairs with Gilboy. He started to try it, but they pushed him back. Huffing drew his revolver, and pointing it at the men, yelled: "I shoot on me, if any man that lays a hand on me. This man is my prisoner, and he's going up to Alderman Millar's office with me."

The four friends of the prisoner didn't like the look of the cold steel, and they drew aside and let the officer go up stairs with his prisoner. The latter waived a hearing and entered the hall in the sum of \$500 for his appearance at court.

AMPUTATION NECESSARY.

John McHugh's Leg Was Crushed to a Pulp. John McHugh, who resides on Butler street, Danmore, had one of his legs so badly crushed at Spragueville that it was found necessary at the Moses Taylor hospital to amputate it. McHugh is a young man 21 years of age, and was employed as a brakeman. While his train was at Spragueville yesterday morning he slipped and one of his legs fell across the rail directly in front of an engine, which crushed the leg to a pulp.

ELECTRIC CARS COLLIDE.

One Woman Crushed to Death, Others Injured. New York, Dec. 24.—Two electric cars collided at 6.30 o'clock this evening, near the Broadway ferry, Brooklyn. The front of the car was forced from the track into a great crowd of Christmas shoppers, who were emerging from the ferry house. One woman, name unknown, was crushed to death and two other women were badly crushed, but they cannot live. They were taken to a hospital. Their names are Mrs. Elizabeth Warren, of No. 10 Ten Eyck street, and Mrs. Conman, of 334 South First street.

For Sale.

Two heavy and one light delivery wagons; one buggy pole; cash register; two pipe-cutting machines; one four-horse-power engine; \$1,500 worth gas fixtures and supplies; \$2,500 plumbers' and steam-fitters' supplies, and one two-seated open wagon. Hunt & Connell.

Election Officers Arrested. By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Philadelphia, Dec. 24.—Fourteen election officers were arrested by the United States Organizers for Good Government were held under \$500 bail for court today on charges of violating the law in November. Other warrants against the same officers have been issued. Efforts will also be made to bring back some of the accused who suddenly left town.

HAS ASKED FOR VIEWERS

ANOTHER TURN IN THE VIADUCT LITIGATION.

Conrad Wenzel, Whose Property Abuts on the Proposed Viaduct, Asked Court to Appoint Viewers to Assess the Benefits and Damages—Progress of the Hearing of the Keller Equity Suit, Yesterday. Showing the Total Indebtedness of City—Adjourned Till Wednesday.

Another half day was spent yesterday by Judge John P. Kelly in hearing the testimony and the arguments thereon in the equity suit which Luther Keller has brought to test the validity of the West Lackawanna avenue viaduct ordinance, and particularly what security the citizens whose properties are to be damaged will have in the way of indemnification.

The plaintiff, through Attorneys Burns and Streeter, still has the floor. Yesterday the plaintiff's side devoted itself entirely to piling up the city's indebtedness in an effort to show that the proposed expenditure added to the present indebtedness will increase the city's liabilities beyond the two per cent limit.

In view of Judge Kelly's decision, Saturday, that the \$250,000 worth of bonds issued with the consent of the people can not be considered as arriving at the margin still left for the expansion of the debt without a vote of the people, the task of the plaintiff was made extra arduous.

Deputy Controller Charles A. Hartley was the only witness examined. Mr. Burns was trying to have him show what the floating debt amounts to in the way of judgments and incidental debts, but as no preparation of this evidence has been made, Judge Kelly advised, out of consideration for time-saving, that adjournment be made till Wednesday morning and that the witness in the meantime go over the books and get this information tabulated in convenient form.

THE INDEBTEDNESS.

Mr. Burns had the city debt up to more than half a million, but by subtracting the moneys and bonds in the sinking fund and the cash in the treasury or due from collectors, and by subtracting the \$250,000 bridge bonds and other liabilities, which the defense claims are not computable in figuring on the two per cent limit, Major Warren and City Solicitor Vosburg succeeded in cutting down the apparent indebtedness to about \$350,000.

To render unnecessary another hearing, in case the Saturday decision should be reversed, Judge Kelly announced yesterday that he would hear the evidence of the plaintiff on that point.

At the hearing of the case yesterday morning, Mr. Burns presented the following petition from Conrad Wenzel, one of the abutting property holders, asking for the appointment of viewers to assess the damages before the viaduct work is begun:

COURT HOUSE NEWS NOTES.

The Central Pennsylvania Telephone company has placed a telephone box in the court house corridor. The Union Dime Permanent Loan association yesterday issued an execution against the Ira Tripp Home company on a bond for \$1,400. A rule to open judgment was granted by Judge Edwards yesterday in the case of Muller & Judge, against James Sheridan, of Olyphant. The will of James Gallagher, late of Scranton, was admitted to probate yesterday by Register Koch. Letters testamentary were granted to Michael Gallagher. Letters testamentary were granted to Hugo Klein and Herman Heinrich in the estate of Charles Klein, late of Scranton.

James Brock, of West Scranton, who attempted to criminally assault Albert Herms, a seven-year-old daughter, Nov. 29, 1907, and who was sent to the Eastern penitentiary on April 22, 1898, for three years, was yesterday released. This was the third offense of this kind he was charged with and the second time he was penalized.

BUY EGGS BY WEIGHT.

Otherwise You'll Get Cheated, Says the Department of Agriculture. In the latest year book of the United States department of agriculture results are given as to tests of eggs made at the North Carolina experiment station. In connection with some of its recent poultry experiments, the station recorded the weight of eggs per dozen, as well as the number of eggs produced by pullets and old hens of a number of well-known breeds and by Pekin ducks during six months. Generally speaking, larger eggs were laid by hens than by pullets of the same breed. The eggs laid by the Pekin ducks (old and young) were heavier than those laid by any breed of hens weighing 2 1/2 ounces per dozen. Of the different breeds of hens tested, the largest eggs were laid by the Light Brahmas, weighing 28 ounces per dozen. The Black Langshan and Barred Plymouth Rock hens' eggs weighed a little over 26 ounces per dozen, while those laid by Single Comb Brown Leghorns, laid hatched Plymouth Rock, White Wyandotte and Buff Cochins hens ranged from 21.7 to 23.7 ounces per dozen.

Of the pullets, the heaviest eggs were laid by the Black Minorcas, weighing 25.5 ounces, the lightest by the Single Comb Brown Leghorn and Silver-laced Wyandottes, weighing 17.5 and 22.1 ounces per dozen respectively. The Barred Plymouth Rock, White Plymouth Rock, White Wyandotte, Black Langshan and Buff Cochins pullets' eggs all weighed not far from 24 ounces per dozen. As will be seen, the variation in the weight of the eggs was considerable. Rating the lightest eggs (those from Single Comb Brown Leghorn pullets) at 18 1/2 cents per dozen, the prevailing market price in North Carolina when these tests were

Fatal Fire at Toronto.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Toronto, Dec. 24.—In a fire which destroyed the store and dwelling of Robert Litcher, on Queen street, today, his son, Henry, was burned to death and his wife was so severely injured by jumping from a window that her life is deemed to be in jeopardy. The other members of the family saved themselves by jumping.

Steamship Arrivals.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. New York, Dec. 24.—(Closed.) Bohemia, Hamburg; Vaderland, Antwerp; St. Louis, Southampton; Bremen—Arrived: Frederich Der Grosse, New York.

The Night Before Christmas Look at Our Bargains. Beautiful Plates, 50c. Toilet Pieces at less than cost. A Dorringer Cut Glass Carafe for \$4.00. A Libbey Carafe for \$2.75 in the latest lovely Chrysanthemum and Brilliant cuts. Open Stock Dinner Sets much reduced in price.

China Mall. Geo. V. Millar & Co. 134 Wyoming Avenue. Walk in and Look Around.

TEETH Extracted Absolutely Without Pain. Our system of PAINLESS Dentistry is far superior to the old method of doing work. We both fill and extract teeth without the least particle of pain. Our prices for the present are extremely low, and if you are in need of any dental work, call and have your teeth examined.

Schimpff, the Jeweler. That's the name. You've heard it a good many times—most every time in fact, when jewelry is the topic of conversation, for the one implies the other.

Schimpff, the Jeweler. Has much to show you in the Gift Line—more than you'll see in most other stores. Not only more, but something "different"—novelties that appeal to you, because of their novelty.

Schimpff, the Jeweler. Has everything going in the jewelry line. Think of what you want; it's there. Prices, too, are less than you think, when you consider that no matter what you buy, quality is apparent.

317 Lackawanna Avenue.

The New Neversill Asphalt Removable HORSESHOE CALK. Horse cannot slip and will outwear three sets of any other calk manufacturer. BITTENBENDER & CO. 126 and 128 Franklin Ave. SOLE AGENTS.

Toys Games Dolls Sleds Candy Wagons. J. D. WILLIAMS & BRO. 312 and 314 Lackawanna Avenue.

The Christmas Monday CALENDARS. On this last day given you to select your gifts, let us suggest. It signifies good luck to get a calendar given you, as the saying runs, and you know the giver is always blessed. We have about a thousand left, and the choicest and daintiest designs—Box Papers, Stationery Sets, Fountain Pens, Ink Stands, Leather Goods, Bibles, Prayer Books, Silver Novelties.

R. E. PRENDERGAST. 207 WASHINGTON AVENUE. Scranton, Pa. made, the relative value of eggs from other breeds on the basis of their weight and their real value in proportion to the market price was calculated. On the basis of the results obtained, the station believes that selling eggs by the pound would be more accurate than by the dozen. "On what other article of food will people be content to pay the same price for what may vary over 50 per cent in value? Or what producer of merchantable produce of any other kind will consent to supply all the way up to 55 per cent more than market value and not think to add to the standard price for additional value?" An apparent objection to selling eggs by weight is that they are not generally used in the household in this way. Most recipes call for eggs by number and not by weight. There is no question that weighing the eggs would be more accurate, and recipes are occasionally met with in which this method is followed.

SYRUP OF FIGS. Acts Pleasantly and Promptly. Cleanses the System Gently and Effectually when bilious or costive. Presents in the most acceptable form the laxative principle of figs known to act most beneficially.

Ice Cream. BEST IN TOWN. 25c Per Quart. LACKAWANNA DAIRY CO. Telephone Orders Promptly Delivered 277-327 Adams Avenue.

Scranton Transfer Co. Baggage Checked Direct to Hotels and Private Residences. Office D. L. & W. Passenger Station. Phone 525.

DR. H. B. WARE, SPECIALIST. Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat. Office Hours—9 a. m. to 12:30 p. m.; 2 to 4 Williams Building, Opp. Postoffice.

UNION LABEL.

CITY NOTES.

NEW ENGAGEMENT.—Steps have been taken to organize an encampment of the Spanish War Veterans at Hazleton.

CHRISTMAS AT THE JAIL.—The prisoners at the county jail will be supplied with a turkey dinner today at the expense of Sheriff Fryer.

PROTHONOTARY PRESENTED.—The attorney of the prothonotary's office yesterday presented Prothonotary John Copeland with a gold watch box for a Christmas present.

CORNELL CONCEIT.—The Cornell Glee club will be Saturday, Dec. 29 at the Bicycle Club House. The program for sale of seats opens Wednesday at 9 a. m. at Powell's music store.

HURT IN THE MINES.—John Walsh, a middle-aged man employed in the White Oak mine, at Archbold, he is being treated at the Lackawanna hospital.

ADDITIONAL TRAINS.—The Delaware and Hudson will run additional trains between Scranton and Olyphant and Avesa today, stopping at all stations to accommodate the large amount of travel on that line between the points named.

MURRAY RELEASED.—William Murray, of Providence, who stabbed Patrick McNulty on Dec. 15, and who has since been in the county jail without bail, was released on \$500 bail yesterday. McNulty having been declared by his attending physician to be out of danger.

ARMY AUTHORITIES NOTIFIED.—S. E. Batten and William B. Blodgett, the two deserters from the United States army, who gave themselves up to the police on Sunday, are still in the central police station, but Chief Blodgett has communicated with the commander of Fort Columbus and expects that he will arrive today to take the men back.

FUNERAL OF HENRY VOLZ. Services Conducted in the Second Presbyterian Church. The funeral of the late Henry Volz was held yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the family residence at 526 Lee court. The remains were taken to the Second Presbyterian church, where services were conducted by the pastor, Rev. Dr. Charles E. Robinson, who delivered a brief eulogy of the character of the dead man.

The church was thronged with his many friends, and a goodly number followed the remains to the Forest Hill cemetery, where interment was made. The pall-bearers were selected from the Knights of the Mystic Chain and the Jr. O. U. A. M., of both of which organizations the deceased was a member.

There were many handsome floral offerings, including a bouquet of roses from the employes of the Scranton house, a wreath from Victor Koch and an anchor from the Christian Endeavor society of the Second Presbyterian church.

LACKAWANNA HOSPITAL CASES. Louis Bonn, an Italian laborer at the Meadow Brook mine, had his left leg squeezed between a car and the rib yesterday, causing a fracture. He is at the Lackawanna hospital.

Andrew Bosina, employed as a laborer at the Sterrick Creek mine, in Preckville, had his right leg fractured by a fall of coal yesterday morning. He is undergoing treatment at the Lackawanna hospital.